## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1   1. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client ac-

2   cepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

3   a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a

4   client;

5   b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-

6   tor identifier;

7   c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:

8   obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;

9   determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and

10  transmitting the requested resource to the client;

11  c d.) responsive to the request not including ~~the~~ a visitor identifier:

12  assigning a new visitor identifier;

13  sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier

14  to the client;

15  responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-

16  termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;

17  ~~and~~

18     responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,

19       determining that the client does not accept visitor

20       identifiers; and

21      transmitting the requested resource to the client.


1   2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visitor iden-

2 tifier comprises a cookie.


1   3. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a requestor

2 accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

3     a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor

4      having an address;

5     b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

6     c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier,:

7      c.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier; and

8      c.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;

9       and.

10      c.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and

11     d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

12      d.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator

13       that step d.3) has been performed;

14   d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that

15    step d.3) has been performed~~,~~:

16    assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's ad-

17     dress; ~~and~~

18    determining that the requestor does not accept visitor

19     identifiers; <u>and</u>

20    <u>transmitting the requested resource to the requestor;</u>

21     <u>and</u>

22   d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator

23    that step d.3) has been performed:

24    assigning a new visitor identifier;

25    sending to the requestor a redirection request includ-

26     ing the new visitor identifier and an indicator

27     that step d.3) has been performed<u>, the redirec-</u>

28     <u>tion request being adapted to cause the reques-</u>

29     <u>tor to retransmit the request for the resource;</u>

30     and

31    repeating steps a-d.


1  4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the visitor iden-

2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1    5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining

2  whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier comprises:

3          comparing the visitor identifier with a range of valid visitor iden-

4              tifiers; and,

5          in response to the visitor identifier being outside the range of valid

6              visitor identifiers, indicating that the request did not include

7              the visitor identifier.


1    6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the visitor iden-

2  tifier comprises a cookie.


1    7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2          d.) categorizing data sent with the request for the resource by at

3              least one selected from the group consisting of a visitor iden-

4              tifier, a page identifier, and a time stamp.


1    8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitor iden-

2  tifier comprises a cookie.


1    9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further com-

2  prising:

3          repeating steps a-d for a predetermined amount of time.

1    10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further com-

2  prising:

3            repeating steps a-d until receiving a particular request for a re-

4                  source.


1            11. (Currently amended) A data collection server for determining whether

2  a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising:

3            a communication interface for receiving a request for a resource

4                  from a requestor and sending a visitor identifier;

5            a cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for per-

6                  forming the steps of:

7                  a) determining whether the request includes a visitor iden-

8                        tifier;

9                  b) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier,:

10                        b.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor iden-

11                              tifier;

12                        b.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor

13                              identifiers; and

14                        b.3) causing the communication interface to transmit

15                              the requested resource to the requestor;

16                  c) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier,:

17    ~~a~~c.1) determining whether the request includes an in-

18    dicator that step ~~e~~c.3) has been performed;

19    ~~b~~c.2) responsive to the request including the indicator

20    that step ~~e~~c.3) has been performed~~,~~:

21    assigning a visitor identifier;

22    <u>determining that the requestor does not accept</u>

23    <u>visitor identifiers;</u> and

24    <u>causing the communication interface to trans-</u>

25    <u>mit the requested resource to the re-</u>

26    <u>questor;</u>

27    ~~θ~~c.3) responsive to the request not including the indi-

28    cator that step ~~e~~c.3) has been performed:

29    assigning a new visitor identifier;

30    causing the communication interface to send to

31    the requestor a redirection request in-

32    cluding the new visitor identifier and an

33    indicator that step ~~e~~c.3) has been per-

34    formed<u>, the redirection request being</u>

35    <u>adapted to cause the requestor to re-</u>

36    <u>transmit the request for the resource;</u>

37    and

38         a session controller coupled to the cookie handler for signaling a

39           session end for a particular visitor identifier; and

40         a repository for:

41           storing data sent with the request for the resource;

42           responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, stor-

43              ing data associated with the visitor identifier ~~and de-~~

44              ~~termining that the requestor accepts visitor identifi-~~

45              ~~ers; and~~

46           ~~responsive to the request including the indicator that step c)~~

47              ~~has been performed, determining that the requestor~~

48              ~~does not accept visitor identifiers.~~


1      12. (Previously presented) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein

2 the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.


1      13.  (Cancelled).


1      14. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client ac-

2 cepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

3         sending, from a client, a first request for a resource to a data collec-

4           tion server;

5         <u>in response to the first request including a visitor identifier:</u>

6  receiving the requested resource;

7   in response to the first request not including a visitor identifier:

8    receiving a new visitor identifier and a redirection request

9    from the data collection server;

10    responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier,

11    sending a second request for a resource with the new visitor

12    identifier to the data collection server; and

13    responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,

14    sending a second request for a resource without the new vis-

15    itor identifier to the data collection server; and

16    receiving the requested resource.


1  15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the visitor

2 identifier comprises a cookie.


1  16. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client ac-

2 cepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

3   sending, from a client, a first request for a resource to a data collec-

4    tion server;

5   in response to the first request including a visitor identifier:

6    receiving the requested resource;

7   in response to the first request not including a visitor identifier:

8  a) receiving a new visitor identifier and a redirection request

9  from the data collection server, the redirection request in-

10  cluding an indicator that step c) has been performed;

11  b) responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier,

12  sending a second request for a resource with the new visitor

13  identifier to the data collection server, the second request in-

14  cluding an indicator that step c) has been performed; ~~and~~

15  c) responsive to the client not storing the new visitor iden-

16  tifier, sending a second request for a resource without the

17  new visitor identifier to the data collection server, the second

18  request including an indicator that step c) has been per-

19  formed; and

20  <u>d)</u> receiving the requested resource.

1  17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the visitor

2  identifier comprises a cookie.

1  18. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer

2  readable code embodied thereon , said computer readable code for programming

3  one or more computers to perform a method for determining whether a client

4  accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

5      a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a

6           client;

7      b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-

8           tor identifier;

9      c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:

10          obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;

11          determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and

12          transmitting the requested resource to the client;

13      c d.) responsive to the request not including the visitor identifier:

14          assigning a new visitor identifier;

15          sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier

16              to the client;

17          responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-

18              termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;

19              and

20          responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,

21              determining that the client does not accept visitor

22              identifiers; and

23          transmitting the requested resource to the client.

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1    19. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer

2    readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming

3    one or more computers to perform a method for determining whether a reques-

4    tor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

5        a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor

6            having an address;

7        b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

8        c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier~:

9            c.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier; ~and~

10           c.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;

11               and~:

12           c.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and

13       d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

14           d.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator

15               that step d.3) has been performed;

16           d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that

17               step d.3) has been performed~:

18               assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's ad-

19                   dress; ~and~

| 20 | determining that the requestor does not accept visitor |
| 21 | identifiers; <u>and</u> |
| 22 | <u>transmitting the requested resource to the requestor;</u> |
| 23 | <u>and</u> |
| 24 | d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator |
| 25 | that step d.3) has been performed: |
| 26 | assigning a new visitor identifier; |
| 27 | sending to the requestor a redirection request includ- |
| 28 | ing the new visitor identifier and an indicator |
| 29 | that step d.3) has been performed<u>, the redirec-</u> |
| 30 | <u>tion request being adapted to cause the reques-</u> |
| 31 | <u>tor to retransmit the request for the resource;</u> |
| 32 | and |
| 33 | repeating steps a-d. |

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| 1 | 20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19, |
| 2 | wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | 21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received |
| 2 | request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource |
| 3 | identified by the received request. |

1       22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received

2   request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address

3   identified by the received request.

1       23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a redi-

2   rection request comprises sending a redirection request including an indicator

3   that step c) has been performed.

1       24. (Cancelled).

1       25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received

2   request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource

3   identified by the received request.

1       26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received

2   request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address

3   identified by the received request.

1       27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein receiving a

2   redirection request comprises receiving a redirection request including an indica-

3   tor that a first request has been received, and wherein the second request for a

4   resource  includes the indicator that a first request has been received.

1    28. (Cancelled).

1    29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the first re-

2    quest for the resource identifies a resource, and the second request identifies the

3    resource identified by the first request.

1    30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2         repeating steps a-<u>d</u>e until reaching a session expiration.

1    31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2         repeating steps a-<u>d</u>e until reaching a session expiration.